

Message Text

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USDA:GWALDMAN (INFO)

LA/GC:ILEVY

ARA:NC - MR. SONANDRES

----- 022277

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, VE

SUBJECT: COUNTRY-FINANCED SERVICE - BILATERAL AGREEMENT

REFER: A) STATE 181557

- B) STATE 209524

1. AS A RESULT OF THE JOINT AID/USDA TEAM VISIT (REF. B)
USDA HAS PREPARED A DRAFT LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
USDA AND GOV MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WHICH COVERS AMONG
OTHER THINGS THE QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TO
BE ACCORDED ITS ADVISORS DURING THE TOUR OF DUTY IN
VENEZUELA.

2. THE DRAFT HAS CAUSED US TO FOCUS ON THE QUESTION OF HOW
BEST TO APPROACH PROGRAMS ON REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL SERVICES
FROM THE PERQUISITES STANDPOINT, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT MAY
WELL BE THAT SUCH SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE GOV BY
OTHER AGENCIES OF THE US GOVERNMENT. AFTER SOME STUDY IT
APPEARS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION
COULD BE ADOPTED.

(A) HAVE THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND UNDERSTANDINGS AS THEY
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ARISE ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION

AGREEMENT OF 1952 BETWEEN THE USG AND GOV. SOME MINOR CHANGES MAY BE NECESSARY IN THIS AGREEMENT TO SERVE THIS PURPOSE (PARTICULARLY ARTICLE 2) BUT THESE CHANGES PROBABLY COULD BE NEGOTIATED FAIRLY QUICKLY. ONE DISADVANTAGE OF

THIS APPROACH IS THAT IT WOULD BE AN EXTENSION OF AN AGREEMENT USED DURING THE CONCESSIONAL AID PERIOD. WE UNDERSTAND THE GOV DID NOT WISH TO CONSIDER THIS BILATERAL AGREEMENT APPLICABLE 18 MONTHS AGO WHEN THE PUBLIC SAFETY REIMBURSABLE PROGRAM WAS DISCUSSED. WE, HOWEVER, CONSIDER THE BILATERAL VALID FOR THIS PURPOSE (WITH ONLY A FEW POSSIBLE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS) AND HAVE IN FACT USED AID BILATERALS IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO COVER REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.

(B) ENTER INTO A NEW UMBRELLA-TYPE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOV FOR PURPOSES OF REIMBURSABLE PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNED TO ENCOMPASS ALL PROSPECTIVE US AGENCIES WHOSE TECHNICIANS MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THESE PROGRAMS. THIS APPROACH WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY OF STARTING A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE USG AND GOV WITH A NEW AND SPECIFIC AGREEMENT. THE DISADVANTAGE WOULD BE THAT SUCH A NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT MAY REQUIRE MORE TIME TO NEGOTIATE IN CARACAS AND CLEAR IN WASHINGTON.

(C) PROCEED WITH THE APPROACH NOW BEING PROPOSED BY USDA. THIS APPROACH WOULD IMPLY THAT EACH USG AGENCY WOULD NEGOTIATE SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH ELEMENTS OF THE GOV TO COVER GENERAL ITEMS AND PERQUISITES. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY HERE, OF COURSE, OF SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE REACHED BY EACH USG AGENCY WITH THE GOV LEADING TO CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDING.

3. ALTERNATIVES A AND B HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF UNIFORMITY -- ALL USG TECHNICIANS FROM WHATEVER SOURCES DERIVED WOULD HAVE THE SAME PERQUISITES. WE SUSPECT THAT UNIFORMITY OF TREATMENT WOULD APPEAL TO THE VENEZUELAN. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE AN OVERALL AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME WE FEEL ALTERNATIVE A IS THE PREFERRED APPROACH. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE HAVING EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THESE AP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROACHES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT ENSUING DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT WITH THE GOV WILL NOT UNDULY DELAY THE EXCELLENT PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR IN DEVELOPING A REIMBURSABLE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM WHICH WE HOPE WILL LEAD, IF POSSIBLE, TO AN AGREEMENT FOR APPROVAL DURING THE MINAG'S PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS FALL. KISSINGER

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